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INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY	SOVIET SATELLITES
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ARMENIA	
AZERBAIDZHAN	
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ESTONIA	
GEORGIA	
HUNGARY	
LATVIA	
LEBANON	
LIBYIA	
ROMANIA	
RUSSIA	
SYRIA	
TURKEY	
YUGOSLAVIA	

SUBJECT INDICATIONS OF DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES

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CPW Report No. 10 -- Satellites

1 September 1951

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SUMMARY

There was evidence of internal unrest from all six of the satellite countries, and three of them--Poland, Rumania and Albania--conducted major trials of "spies and diversionists" during the period under review.

The drive toward heavy industrialization was pressed with varying degrees of success. Poland opened a number of heavy installations of strategic and military significance and Czechoslovakia's attempt to increase its industrial labor force by transforming bureaucrats to the factories was only partially successful. Concern over the mounting cost of production is reflected in the current campaign to revise labor norms--a drive which was admittedly a failure last year. The output of the coal industry in Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia was below expectations, and steps were taken to increase the underground mining force. Poor labor discipline in Hungary and electric power shortages in Bulgaria were admitted.

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The Bulgarian radio said that there were still too many collisions and derailments and that inadequate preparations were being made for the winter. Belgrade alleged that Czechoslovak railroadmen were impeding shipments to the USSR.

Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria admitted harvest difficulties--very serious ones in the case of Czechoslovakia, where bad weather contributed to the failure in the countryside. The rural collectivization drive was pushed most aggressively in Hungary.

There was apparently a lull in the quarrel between Church and State in all the satellite countries, although in Albania a national Catholic Church, divorced from Rome, was established. The Church in Hungary conspicuously endorsed the government's grain delivery and rural collectivization drives in return for various concessions.

Considerable attention was paid to ideological questions. The groundwork was laid in Poland for a trial of Gomulka and General Sychalski, both seriously implicated in the Warsaw Army trial. There were hints of a possible new purge in the Czechoslovak Communist Party. The Rumanian and Bulgarian radios were preoccupied with the problem of maintaining ideological purity in literature. There were no indications of any major shifts in the Communist Party hierarchies of the various satellite countries. It was apparent, for example, that Chervonkov continued in a leading role.

POLAND.

Poland's propaganda output was completely dominated by the Warsaw trial of former Army officers charged with conspiring with the Western imperialists to overthrow the people's regime. Steering a careful course between admitting that the conspirators had undermined the reliability of the army and minimizing the seriousness of the crimes committed, the Polish radio used the trial to whip up enthusiasm for the Communist regime, to inspire fear and hatred of the West and to stress the need for affection for the USSR. Warsaw reports an exceptional harvest without any of the difficulties said to be afflicting the other People's Democracies. Despite the heavy emphasis on the Warsaw trial and other propaganda on the necessity of maintaining closest relations with the Soviet Union, the Polish radio apparently neglected to mark the sixth anniversary of the Soviet-Polish frontier agreement. There are frequent references to efforts to impose Soviet techniques in social and industrial situations.

Party Affairs, Ideology, and Internal Propaganda: Extensive use was made of the Warsaw trial as an object lesson showing "the danger of the slightest deviation from the Party line," as TRYBUNA LUDU put it in an editorial broadcast on 14 August. The occasion was also used frequently to point up the contention that the Western Powers are unrelenting in their hatred of the People's Poland. A SOLNIEREZ WOLNOSCI editorial broadcast 7 August warned that as long as capitalism exists it will send spies and saboteurs into Poland and the other People's Democracies. "These will use every rift and deviation however slight from the Marxist line in order to undermine our socialist construction." Speaking at ceremonies marking the opening of a new blast furnace at Chorzow on 13 August, Cyrankiewicz warned: "Let us defend our national achievements with even greater care and watchfulness against the attempts of foreign agents."

There was evidently a satisfactory popular response to the attempt to stir up hatred against the defendants. On 13 August, the day the sentences were imposed, 40 "indignation meetings" were held in Warsaw alone.

No indication was given of the fate planned for General Marian Sychalski and for former Polish Communist Party Secretary General Gomulka, both of whom were strongly implicated in the evidence presented at the trial. Sychalski admitted in evidence that he was under arrest, and in a recorded broadcast he spoke in a broken, often barely audible voice.

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Agriculture: Later sections of this report will indicate serious harvesting difficulties in most of the satellite countries. There is no indication from Warsaw radio of similar complications in Poland.

At harvest festival celebrations on 19 August, according to the Home Service, the peasants "proudly" reported the gathering of bumper crops and the sale of grain to the state in excess of plan and ahead of schedule. Joyous processions took place, and the "attendance of representatives of the Polish Army was eloquent proof of the strong bonds linking our people's armed forces with the masses of working peasants."

A day earlier, PAP also reported that grain purchasing centers are collecting grain far in excess of plan; some districts overfulfilling their daily figure by as much as 250 percent. Reports from all provinces show that the purchasing scheme is proving a great success, according to the news agency. Earlier reports were all along similarly optimistic lines.

Mining: A GLOS PRACY editorial on 19 August appealed for more workers in the mines. The paper called for a properly organized recruitment campaign and for an adequate provision of hostel accommodations and other amenities, implying that these may have been lacking in the past.

Education and Youth Affairs: Minorshi, chief of the Air League, said on 18 August that his organization, modeled on the Soviet DOSAV, now has 600,000 members, 60 percent of whom are young peoples from factories, villages and schools.

Warsaw reported on 10 August that Bierut was receiving telegrams from teachers who are improving their professional and political knowledge at summer schools. More than 5,000 primary and secondary school teachers and more than 4,000 technical school teachers are attending summer classes, according to the broadcast.

Church Affairs: Very little attention was paid to Church-State relations, aside from a report on 1 August that Wroclaw Cathedral, rebuilt after being damaged in the war, had been consecrated by Archbishop Syszynski, in the presence of bishops and Director of the Office for Religious Denominations Bida. The links between the Vatican and the army conspirators, of course, were featured in trial propaganda.

A Vatican broadcast in English on 11 August charged that numerous Soviet specialists in church affairs have arrived in Warsaw. It is believed, said the Vatican broadcast, that the Polish Government has decided to resume anti-Catholic persecutions after the death of Cardinal Sapieha.

Army and Civil Defense: The Warsaw radio was careful, in its overwhelming flow of propaganda about the trial of former Army officers, to avoid implying that the conspirators had managed to infect the bulk of the army. For example, on 7 August, an editorial in ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI emphasized that although the conspirators had inflicted "serious damage" before they were caught, the loyalty of the officers corps was now secure. A Krystek commentary on 16 August stressed that although conspirators such as Spychalski might have succeeded in temporarily dulling the vigilance of this or that part of the army, they could never "poison the soul of the Polish soldier," whose sense of "organic consanguinity" had been learned from the great Soviet ally. There was nevertheless a strong implication that the loyalty of the Army might be severely tested in the event of Western intervention, as indicated by a TRYBUNA LUDA editorial of 5 August which said that the conspirators' "only hope was another war, leading to the imperialist re-occupation of Poland."

Sovietization and Relations with Neighbors: One of the most serious charges levelled against the Army conspirators, and one heavily stressed in internal propaganda, was that they had worked to frustrate the Soviet liberation of Poland. An intensive effort was made simultaneously to free the Soviet Army of the responsibility for failing to come to the aid of the participants in the ill-fated Warsaw rising against the Nazis. Interesting, in view of this propaganda, was the apparent failure of the Warsaw radio to mark the sixth anniversary of the Soviet-Polish frontier agreement, an occasion noted in a Moscow broadcast to Poland. More understandable was the failure to note the coincidental anniversary of the "miracle of the Vistula," the 1921 defeat of the Russians.

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A visiting delegation of East German trade unions pledged that on their return home they would expose "the base lie spread by hypocritical propaganda in our country that the Polish nation hates the German nation," according to a Warsaw broadcast of 4 August. A Belgrade broadcast in Polish on 12 August claimed that the USSR was giving preferential treatment to East Germany. Raw materials are being supplied by Poland and Czechoslovakia at uneconomic prices and East German imports are being increased at the expense of the People's Democracies.

Consumer Goods: Possible shortages may be implied in the announcement that trading centers of the leather industry are preparing to supply shops with autumn and winter footwear. Large quantities of Polish and imported footwear are to be put on sale shortly. The style range is to be greater than last year and there will be a 30 percent increase in the allocation of children's shoes. Earlier it was announced that the Warsaw Institute of Industrial Designs had opened a preview of garments and other consumers' goods "to be produced shortly on a mass scale." The models were described as "remarkably practical, simple and rather cheap."

Unions and Labor: There was no particular propaganda follow up of the 8 August report that discussion had started in Warsaw of the draft of a new type collective agreement to be introduced in a dozen industrial establishments later in August. The new agreements, according to a Warsaw broadcast, would not cover wages or working regulations, but would "set out the basic tasks of the personnel and the management of work establishments in the sphere of production, working conditions and the material and cultural needs of the staff." The agreements are to be called "shop collective agreements" and are modeled on common Soviet practice.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Three topics were dominant in Czechoslovak internal radio propaganda--the harvest, the transfer of administrative personnel to productive jobs, and the revision of labor norms--and there was ample evidence of great difficulty in the completion of all these tasks. There were serious harvesting complications, caused by bad weather, the attempt to cope simultaneously with the autumn sowing, labor shortages and faulty work by the machine tractor stations. The transfer of administrative workers to production also fell far behind plan due to the reluctance of Government departments to release staff and to the hesitancy of industrial concerns to accept large groups of unskilled help. Continuing emphasis on claims that the revision of labor norms will not mean a cut in wages indicated scepticism on the part of the workers about this possibility. It was admitted that last year's norms revision had not succeeded.

Industrial production was said to have exceeded quotas slightly in the first seven months of the year. Belgrade radio claimed that Czechoslovak railroadmen and locomotive construction personnel were conducting sabotage, but there was no indication of this in Czechoslovak broadcasts. The campaign for the salvage of scrap metal was renewed.

A hint of a possible new purge in the Czechoslovak Communist Party was indicated in a broadcast explaining the significance of the exchange of Party cards to begin in September. Preparations were made for an intensive ideological offensive in the schools.

Party Affairs, Ideology and Internal Propaganda: A hint of a possible new purge in the Czechoslovak Communist Party was given in an 18 August address by Deputy Nemec, Assistant Secretary General of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Society. Explaining the political significance of the exchange of membership cards, which is to begin 1 September, he said that the new cards would be "evidence of the holder's progressive outlook and patriotism, his friendship and love for the Soviet Union and the great Stalin, and his membership in the powerful camp of peace."

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Harvest difficulties were in part attributed to ideological shortcomings of Party members and to faulty political work among the harvesters. Slovak Commissioner for Agriculture Faltan said on 10 August that harvest work had been satisfactory wherever political preparations had been thorough. He demanded more political enlightenment. Three days later, Jiri Lukas indicted various Party members of machine-tractor stations, pointing out that they should be "apostles of socialism" in the villages, men who did their duty in an exemplary manner instead of trotting out endless excuses to explain away their failures.

ZEMEDELSKÉ NOVINY (Farmers' Union), criticizing the work of the machine-tractor stations in a broadcast from Prague on 16 August, said that they lack political, technical and organizational preparation and that it is up to their leaders to put matters right.

A RUDE PRAVO editorial, quoted by Prague radio on 14 August, turned to another section of the ideological front, and charged that government departments and plant managements are giving only cursory attention to complaints from workers published in the press. The authorities sometimes reply to such letters without making proper investigation, "just to be rid of the matter," the paper stated. This is mere evasion of criticism and is an attitude inherited from the capitalist regime. Workers' letters are a token of their confidence in the regime and must be treated with great care and solicitude, the paper concluded.

Resistance: It was announced on 4 August that the seven Babice plotters had been executed, but there was no reference to any further out-break of violence. Several kulaks were given sentences of up to five years for various offenses against the harvesting plan.

Industry: Despite intensive propaganda on behalf of the campaign to transfer 77,500 administrative workers to industry, there was ample evidence of failure to comply. By 8 August the situation was apparently serious enough for Zapotocky himself to intervene. In a Prague speech he contended that the transfer was one of the most important Government measures for increasing production. Factories which had complained of a shortage of help, he said, were rejecting transferees under all sorts of pretexts, saying, for example, that they could only employ fully qualified staff and that they had no use for unskilled workers. It was wrong, Zapotocky said, to place untrained workers in the worst jobs with no hope of promotion or of higher wages. The administrative workers were not being punished or purged and it was the duty of managements to help them get on their feet in their new jobs. Managers who were selecting old or unfit administrative staff for transfer were misinterpreting the Government directive.

Zapotocky firmly concluded: "One thing is certain: the transfer will be carried out, even at the price of unavoidable difficulties and mistakes. No authority, even the Premier's office, can entirely avoid difficulties and errors, misunderstandings and wrong decisions."

But, despite this stern warning and a promise by the Ministry of Labor, 9 August, that administrative staff volunteering before 30 September would be allowed to choose their place of employment from a list of plants which have not fulfilled their production plan, there were further difficulties. On 16 August, a report by a Government commission conceded that the transfer was not going equally well everywhere. Although some Ministries had worked out their transfer schedules months ago, they were just now beginning to release their staff. The Chancellery of the President was leading with a 33 percent transfer and the Foreign Office was second with more than 10 percent, but the Ministries of Education and Agriculture had met their quota by only 5 percent. The Supreme Administrative Council had not released a single worker.

There were several references to the need to salvage scrap metals. A RUDE PRAVO editorial on 5 August stated that "in order to meet the demands of industry, we must increase the quantity of scrap metal collected by at least 50 percent." On 14 August, Prague radio's economic editor, Kaminek, gave details showing the importance of metal saving. In the engineering industry, he said, 30-40 percent of the metal in semi-finished articles is wasted in the form of dust and shavings. Reduction of this waste by 10 percent, he claimed, would provide enough metal for 15,000 tractors. Metal conservation, he continued, is particularly necessary in the manufacture of cars, railroad engines and turbines, where the cost of material represents half the cost of the finished article.

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Plans for the construction of new heavy industrial combines were unveiled by Kliment, Minister of Heavy Industry at a meeting of the United National Committee of Ostrava. He said that one of these combines, a foundry establishment bearing Gottwald's name would be set up at the New Ostrava project. Preparatory work is to begin this fall and 2,400 houses will be built by the end of 1952. Enough homes for 36,000 people will be completed in three years.

A Belgrade broadcast in Czech on 12 August claimed that workers at the CKD factory in Prague, engaged in export orders for the USSR, had damaged 23 locomotives. Twenty-five assembly line workers, two engineers and 13 factory policemen have been arrested, according to the Yugoslav radio. There is no confirmation of this report from Czechoslovak radio sources, although a CKD production lag can be inferred from the fact that administrative staff are being transferred there.

Agriculture: The storm--both literal and figurative--which threatened the Czechoslovak harvest broke late in the third week of August. The weather had been bad at the start of the month and it continued so intermittently. Reports from Czechoslovakia during the weekend of 17-19 August indicated that grain deliveries throughout the country were seriously behind schedule. On 17 August, Prague radio announced that the Government's decree of 3 July, making it compulsory for non-producing enterprises and administrative services to set up emergency harvesting brigades comprising no less than 30 percent of their staff, had now been invoked. These emergency harvesting brigades were ordered to report for duty on Monday, 20 August.

Grain deliveries throughout the country were repeatedly described as most unsatisfactory. In the Bratislava region, no more than 51.5 percent of the quota had so far been delivered, and it was said that by 14 August only 27.5 percent of Slovakia's total quota had been given up. Things were no better in Bohemia--in the Kladno Region purchases had amounted to only 25 percent of the prescribed quota--despite the fact that the region had pledged itself to fulfill its obligations by 22 August--and conditions are just as bad in the Kolin District where some localities are "only just beginning to cart grain to the bulk-buying cooperatives." Prague radio said on 18 August that the figure for some villages was still only two percent.

SEMEDELSKE NOVINY, quoted by Prague on 18 August, attributed the fact that the Pardubice District had met no more than 12 percent of its grain delivery quota to "insufficient political preparation." Secretaries of agricultural cooperatives frequently did not "bother to call on farmers in their area" and had "no idea how much grain has actually been delivered." A Prague broadcast on the previous day said that the organization of carting, threshing and delivering must be reviewed at once and all shortcomings eliminated.

Not even the State Farms and State Machine Centers escaped criticism. An official report by the Central Harvesting Commission, quoted by Prague on 17 August, charged State Farms with "neglecting carting" and accused State Machine Centers of "faulty planning with regard to carting, threshing and stubble plowing." A State Machine Center in Slovakia was singled out for criticism by O NOVU DEDINU, a local farmers' journal published in Nove Mesto na Vah, according to a Bratislava broadcast of 18 August.

The number of hop pickers--50,000 were demanded in a Prague broadcast on 13 August--was said to be still insufficient, and appeals for "many more" volunteers were aired by Prague on 17-18 August. The earlier Prague broadcast said that the regional committees had obtained only half of the 50,000 hop pickers required. The Prague region was the worst offender, and here only 1,650 of the 10,000 needed had come forward.

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Two scapegoats for the dire situation indicated above were found near at hand. A Bratislava broadcast on 18 August claimed that, just as last year, the Americans had "tried to infest the Czechoslovak potato crop" with Colorado beetles. The Bratislava region is affected and all possible counter measures have been taken by the authorities. Vigilance must be maintained throughout Slovakia. And a kulak has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment for "failing to fulfill his beef and pork delivery quota," according to another Bratislava broadcast on the same day.

Following are some of the developments, listed in chronological order, which indicate the propaganda pressure applied to solve the harvesting problem:

1 August. The Ministers of Agriculture and of the Interior appealed to the national committees to speed up the harvesting of crops which had been hampered by unstable weather conditions. "The national committees must not allow the village rich to exploit the bad weather to delay harvest work and weaken labor morale." (Prague)

1 August. Slovak Commissioner of Agriculture Faltan stated that tractors must work two shifts and that every precaution must be taken to eliminate mechanical faults. (Bratislava)

1 August. It was announced that the machine-tractor stations have so far fulfilled only 23.4 percent of plan. Some districts had failed to introduce all-night shifts. (Prague)

2 August. Farmers and machine-tractor stations of the Trnava district were severely criticized for poor stubble plowing, completed so far only to six percent of quota. Machine-tractor station brigade leaders were accused of using tractors "for getting about on inspection trips." (Bratislava)

4 August. It was announced that the plan for cutting grain crops had been fulfilled by only 28.4 percent by 2 August; and plowing in of stubble by only seven percent. In the entire Prague region there were only 17 tractor drivers working evening shifts, and none in the Karlovy Vary, Usti and Pardubice regions. (Prague)

4 August. In many places threshing machines were working only eight hours a day "due to kulak propaganda." (Bratislava)

4 August. Two day shifts and a night shift were ordered in the Plzen region in view of the unsatisfactory state of stubble plowing. (Prague)

6 August. It was charged that in the Liberic region there is a deficiency in storage space equal to 60,000 tons of grain. "Gross neglect has been shown by the cooperative farm at Hodonin in southern Moravia." This farm, it developed, had employed a rich miller as buyer and he stored grain in weevil infested premises. "It is certain that the damage has by now spread to other places." (Prague)

8 August. The Minister of Education appealed to teachers and school children to go into the fields to help make up the delays caused by bad weather. (Prague)

9 August. Mates reported that 70 percent of all grain has been cut, but that only 22 percent has been hauled off the fields and only 10 percent threshed. The disparity, he said, was due to unsatisfactory organization. Bad weather, he added, had delayed work, particularly stubble plowing which was only 16 percent completed. (Prague)

10 August. The Radotin machine-tractor station was censured for having supplied only one of two threshers promised to local farmers. Three others were lying idle pending dispatch to another town. (Prague)

10 August. Mates again complained of the unsatisfactory state of stubble plowing. Improvement in threshing and bulk buying, he said, was uneven. Five percent of the tractors and 17 percent of the threshers in the Bratislava region were still not employed in harvest work, and in the Banska Bystrica region 20 percent of the tractors and 31 percent of the threshers were still idle. Bulk buying was behindhand in the Kocise, Banska Bystrica and Presov regions. (Prague)

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10 August. It was announced that the machine-tractor stations had reached 40.9 percent of their cutting and 10.9 percent of their stubble plowing. (Prague)

11 August. The Central Harvesting Commission again complained that many districts were working only one day shift and no night shifts. Not enough attention was being paid to flax, the committee charged. (Prague)

11 August. The Minister of Labor charged that factories which had "adopted" cooperative farms had failed to honor their harvest pledges, offering the excuses of holidays and the burdens imposed by the administrative staff transfer. These excuses would not be accepted, and every undertaking was told to organize harvest brigades to the extent of 30 percent of its staff. (Prague)

13 August. Minister of Internal Trade Krajeir, speaking in Moravia, stressed the importance of the work of cooperative officials in the buying of grain and in convincing farmers of the need to honor delivery obligations, to develop cooperatives and to unmask the village rich. (Prague)

15 August. ZEMEDELSE NOVINY said that harvest work had been interrupted by showers and warned against leaving grain in the stocks any longer than necessary. (Prague)

15 August. Mates said that the harvest was going well except for a slowness in carting. Despite delays due to bad weather, he said, preparatory work for the fall sowing must begin immediately after the harvest is over. Meanwhile stubble plowing has been done only to the extent of one-fifth of the plan. (Prague)

15 August. It was announced that the machine-tractor stations had completed 48 percent of the bread cereal harvest plan, 13 percent of the stubble plowing plan, 16 percent of the threshing plan and only nine percent of the flax harvesting plan. (Prague)

16 August. ZEMEDELSE NOVINY urged better use of farm machinery. It said that 12 percent more tractors, 133 percent more threshers and 135 percent more combine harvesters than last year were available but that organization in the machine-tractor stations is poor. Large numbers of these machines, the paper charged, are lying idle in repair shops. (Prague)

16 August. The recruitment of volunteer hop pickers was still proceeding unsatisfactorily and more were "needed urgently."

Mining: The Czechoslovak coal mining industry failed to fulfill its plan in the first half of 1951, according to Prague reports. A RUDE PRAVO editorial said that the Ostrava Karvinna coalfield had fulfilled its plan only to 92.9 percent, and that it is too slowly applying the methods of the shockworker Miska. "It still owes the Republic 638,000 metric tons of coal," according to a Prague broadcast to 7 August.

Later it was announced that the revision of norms in the North Bohemian coalfields is nearing completion. The review, according to a Prague broadcast of 17 August, "nearly everywhere disclosed faults in the old statistical norms and productivity estimates." In the future, the broadcast said, Soviet mining methods would be applied to a greater extent; this would increase output by up to 50 percent.

A 4 August broadcast from Prague described the special benefits that were available to administrative workers who volunteered for one year's service in the Ostrava mines. They would be provided houses with baths or showers, and recreational and cultural facilities. They would receive the same priority rations and food bonuses as regular miners. Later, however, the Director of the Ostrava Karvinna mines admitted that there had been complaints about the accommodations available to the transferees, but he claimed the faults had been remedied. (Prague, 11 August)

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Railway: A Belgrade broadcast in Czech on 16 August noted that Czechoslovak railwaymen were urged, on Soviet Railway Day, to emulate their exemplary Soviet comrades. The fact is, said the Yugoslav radio, that Czechoslovak railwaymen are at least as skilled as the Soviets. But, although half of them are Communist Party members, their hearts are not in their work. Never before have there been so many accidents on Czechoslovak railroads. Leading officials such as J. Frank have spoken of the prevailing chaos, attributing the trouble to sabotage. Belgrade claims that no improvement can be expected because the Czechoslovak railwaymen know that all they are doing is to keep open the channels through which the country's wealth is being drained by Russia.

Education and Culture: A RUDE PRAVO editorial quoted by Prague radio on 16 August discussed the resolution passed by the recent National Teachers Conference. It says that the new year must "witness the launching of our ideological offensive in the schools." This means that "an end will be put, once and for all, to attempts at a compromise on the issue of the role of ideology in our schools, and to all attempts at fostering a so-called spirit of toleration with regard to bourgeois ideologies." On 14 August Prague announced that new textbooks, adopting Soviet methods and eliminating material criticized on ideological grounds last year, will be issued to all Czechoslovak schools in the forthcoming school year.

Deputy Vyhnalek, Secretary General of the SOKOL organization, criticized the activities of certain soccer players. (Prague, 9 August) Many players, he said, had not rid themselves of "bourgeois habits," and even factory managers and works councils treated bad workers leniently if they were good players. Members of the Slavia and the Sparta clubs, he said, had played for money and other payments, and two members, Bradec and Kopecky, got drunk and exerted a bad influence on their fellows. Vyhnalek concluded by warning spectators that "club fanaticism" and rudeness to umpires is intolerable. A week later Vyhnalek stated that the competent authorities had taken steps to remedy the situation criticized by him earlier.

Church-State Affairs: Czechoslovak radio sources did not acknowledge the Vatican radio's claim in a Slovak broadcast on 14 August, that the Communist Party is exerting heavy pressure to compel Greek Catholics in Slovakia to join the Russian Orthodox Church. Canon Michalik of Presnov and others, said the Vatican radio, have become renegades to their faith. Many Greek Catholic priests have been evicted, imprisoned and deported, laymen are being persecuted, and even schoolboys are being forced to abandon their faith by torture and starvation.

Military Affairs: Speaking at graduation exercises at the Anti-Aircraft Military Academy at Olomous, Minister of Defense Cepicka told the new officers: "In close cooperation with our airmen, your task will be to prevent the enemy from penetrating over our territory and from carrying out his destructive and predatory intentions." (Prague, 5 August) At similar ceremonies at the Military Academy at Hranice, he said: "The fighting qualities of our army will increase in proportion to the improvement of the work of commanders of all grades The discovery of capable commanders cannot be left to chance. Care devoted to the education of commanders of all grades must be increased; the most favorable conditions for the work of commanders must be created in order to secure a sufficient number of officers of all types." (Prague, 5 August)

A week later, Cepicka was again confident of the ability of the army to repel any invader. Speaking at ceremonies marking the 520th anniversary of the Hussite victory at Domazlice, he contended that the peoples revolutionary army is on guard against any intentions of the enemy. It is ready, he said, to defend the establishment of socialism in Czechoslovakia, and it guarantees that if the imperialists attempt to make war against the Czechoslovaks and their allies, they will receive another "Hussite lesson." (Prague, 12 August)

In an editorial quoted by Prague on 16 August, OBRANA LIDU urged the need for a high standard of discipline in the army. It explained that a strong, politically mature and disciplined army was the country's best defense against imperialist attack. Without a sense of absolute discipline the soldier can not properly perform his duties. Discipline depends on the systematic and well-directed education of the troops, in conformity with the Oath of Allegiance and the Army regulations.

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Sovietization and Relations with Neighbors: Among evidences of continuing Sovietization of Czechoslovakia were the announcements that Soviet mining methods would be more widely introduced to raise production and that new textbooks adopting Soviet methods would be issued during the forthcoming school year, noted elsewhere in this report.

The Praesidium of the Mine Workers Trade Union appealed to all miners to follow the example of the Ostrava pit in working a special Sunday shift in honor of Soviet Miners Day. (Prague, 16 August)

A dairymaid told the Home audience on 2 August that she increased milk production by following the advice of a Soviet expert: "The secret of the method is to massage the udder frequently and while milking to press and not to pull."

Consumer Problems: In a Prague broadcast on 8 August, Zapotocky claimed that the economy drive in bread and flour supply had proved successful despite foreign propaganda and "the whispering campaign of internal reaction."

A CTK dispatch on 18 August attempted to show that Czechoslovak workers' standards are higher than before the war and higher than in the West. Sales of butter in 1950 were 34 percent above 1949, coffee 137 percent, chocolates and sweets 21 percent, textiles 3.5 percent, clothing 114.6 percent and footwear 53 percent. The basic meat ration is 350 grams per week, or three times the British average. The average meat consumption in 1950 was 39 kilograms a head, or 45 percent above 1936. The average wage of an industrial worker in 1950 was 158 kcs per day, and shockworkers in heavy industry earned as much as 269 kcs per day.

CTK reported on 7 August that the training period for nurses had been reduced from four to three years. Students will get specialized training right from the beginning and after their training course and one year's practical work will be admitted to medical colleges. In his speech on 8 August, Zapotocky criticized the Ministry of Health for employing doctors for administrative work "despite the notorious shortage of doctors in certain districts."

Unions and Labor: Heavy stress was placed on the current revision of labor norms. Two points were particularly emphasized: (1) that unlike last year, the Government is determined to carry through the revisions; (2) that the revision will not mean a reduction in wages.

The current norms-revision campaign was opened by Zapotocky in an address over Prague radio on 8 August. He said that last year wages had risen faster than productivity. The first half of this year had shown an improvement but it is still imperative to continue the endeavor for more economic production.

Minister of Heavy Industry Kliment later claimed that the revision of norms would both increase productivity and increase wages. Every operation in industry, transportation, agriculture and trade would be examined, and he warned against the attitude that "this is old stuff. We have seen it all before and it is no use." Conservative workers must be won over and the new technique "forced through." He said that the fact that the average wage rates were being exceeded by between 80 to 100 percent virtually throughout heavy industry proved that the present norms are too low. Kliment again insisted that there was no intention of cutting wages. He said that he wanted the habit of operating several machines simultaneously to become a general practice. "We must put an end to the comfortable habit of working one machine only. Working on two or more machines simultaneously does not entail any substantial strain." The review of norms, he continued, would serve as an effective way to combat saboteurs who, realizing that the success of the scheme would lead to an earlier dawn of socialism, were spreading mendacious rumors that the revision of norms meant a cut in wages. The real object of the revision is to stabilize norms for the whole of 1952. The review will be based on the advanced production techniques which had enabled innovators to heighten their own norms, and Soviet Stakhanovite techniques must be introduced. (Prague, 10 August)

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On 16 August, Prague brought to the microphone a factory manager who said that this year's revision would be a thorough one and "not merely a matter of going through the motions, as was the case last year."

Pressure is evidently being brought on foremen to spearhead the unpopular campaign for norms revision. An anonymous speaker on 16 August said that the revision showed up the quality of foremen's work. He cited a factory where the foremen and technicians were "taken by surprise" by the workers' unprompted action in this matter. "The foreman who fails as a leader is not wanted," the speaker said. Later, Prague told the cautionary tale of a foreman who had tried to sabotage the revision of norms. Although he bore the title of "best foreman in the plant," he had "ceased to cooperate as soon as he was told the new target for his shop." He failed to attend a foremen's meeting on the pretext of sickness--and here appears the moral--"the norms check was successfully completed without him."

A hint of where the norms revision might lead is given in a CTK report on 18 August. It tells of the accomplishment of a team of three young building apprentices who established a new record by laying 13,965 bricks in 18 hours. This is six times the norm for skilled workers and 25 times the norm for apprentices.

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HUNGARY.

The Hungarian radio was preoccupied with agricultural topics--the grain collection drive and the intensified campaign to convince individual farmers of the blessings of the collective system. Harvesting difficulties were admitted, but not nearly so frankly as by the Czechoslovak radio, and these consisted mainly of retention by farmers of grain for private "black" threshing. Few details were given of industrial accomplishments or shortcomings, and there was a drive against absenteeism, tardiness, and slack discipline. The coal industry was conceded to be falling behind its output quotas and steps were taken to correct the situation. Following the clergy's taking of an oath of allegiance to the state, last month there appeared to be a lull in the church-state conflict. There was a pronounced attempt to justify the deportation of alleged enemies of the people from Budapest, and much attention was given to charges of Yugoslav provocations against Hungary.

Party Affairs, Ideology and Internal Propaganda: Apparently stung by the criticisms of the Western world and by the jibes of the Belgrade radio, Hungarian broadcasts attempted to both foreign and domestic audiences to justify the deportation of so-called enemies of the people from Budapest. On 6 August Budapest cited a 1939 Horthyite law to justify the expulsions. What was described by SZABAD NEP on 1 August as "a handful of enemies" grew by 6 August to an admitted list of more than 2,500 deportees.

During the entire period, Party members were repeatedly reminded of their obligation to support the intensive collectivization drive.

Rakosi's primary role in the Hungarian Communist Party was reaffirmed by a SZABAD NEP editorial on 1 August. Recalling the anniversary of the stabilization of the currency, the paper gave credit to the Communist Party for the money reform and hailed Rakosi as "the father of the forint."

Resistance: Only one case of overt resistance to the regime was admitted. A kulak named Farago, of Abadzsálok, was sentenced to life imprisonment for attempted murder. It appears that when the secretary of a local council called on the accused to remind him that he was in arrears with his grain deliveries, Farago threatened the official with a gun. The local secretary returned later with a police sergeant, who was wounded by the kulak.

A Belgrade broadcast in Hungarian questioned the need for the recent Hungarian decree on official secrets. It suggested that the decree was necessary to prevent the workers from discussing conditions in their factories and offices, since the decree prohibited any conversation on such topics as the shock workers system, wages and the differences between the salaries of Soviet and Hungarian experts. In effect, the decree would prevent the workers from discussing the destination of the goods they were producing, namely the USSR. The fact was, said Belgrade, that the resistance of the masses was growing and sterner measures were required to suppress it. An earlier example has been the Labor decree of 1 February 1951 under which caretakers of apartment houses were ordered to denounce residents whom they suspected of planning to flee from the country.

Industry: A NEPSZAVA article on 8 August complained of absenteeism and slack discipline at Dunapentele, one of the country's prize steel manufacturing projects. The paper said that a determined fight against absenteeism was now needed and stated that this was made possible by a recent reorganization which gave more scope to individual responsibility. A broadcast on 14 August reviewed various ways by which factories were seeking to stamp out tardiness. The Democratic Women's Association in one factory had written to 30 slackers and their wives; the following week there was but one latecomer. In a rubber factory, tardy workers were greeted with a "chastushka," a ditty ridiculing slackers. In another plant, the names of latecomers were displayed on a blackboard under a portrait of Truman, to indicate that they were working for the enemy.

Official endorsement was given to a metal savings campaign launched by foreman Geza Gazda of the Rakosi works under the slogan "Use every scrap of scrap." SZABAD NEP reported approvingly that the Budapest Party Committee had suggested that prizes be offered to workers whose ideas help to reduce waste. (15 August)

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Few hard details were contained in a speech made by Revai at ceremonies marking the opening in Budapest on 18 August of a Five-Year Plan Exhibition in honor of Constitution Day. Revai found it necessary to deny that Hungary is being turned into a Soviet colony. If such schemes as the great Dunapentele, Inota, Barcika and Tizaloeck projects were a symptom of colonization, he said, why do the imperialists not have their like in Persia, Egypt, Malaya, Morocco, Italy or France? There the only construction permitted is that of barracks for American troops. Revai called for more labor discipline, sacrifices and a more resolute effort to overcome difficulties. "Hungary is part and parcel of the USSR's and Stalin's peace front," he concluded.

In connection with Constitution Day, it was reported that the Post Office was to issue stamps featuring the results of the first year of the Five-Year-Plan. It was not suggested that these accomplishments were of as small dimensions as the stamps.

Discussing the drafting of production plans for 1952 which are now in progress, SZABAD NEP said that a new system had been introduced whereby factories will draw up their own suggestions to improve production. Every factory, the paper said, will have a "plan brigade" to prepare "Bolshevik plans for 1952." (18 August)

Constitution Day was marked at Diosgyoer by the opening of a new Martin blast furnace, completed in 53 days instead of the normal ten and a half months. No reference is made to the durability of structure built so rapidly. (20 August)

Agriculture: Propaganda pressure was maintained to compel fulfillment of compulsory grain delivery quotas, but it was evident that no county had met its target by 20 August. The chief difficulty appeared to be the popular practice of keeping back a portion of the crop for later "black" threshing.

The collection drive was spurred by a SZABAD NEP editorial calling for a more intense grain delivery and rural collectivization drive, but making clear that the former has priority. The paper said that, although the collection drive was gaining impetus, not even the leading counties had reached their targets. The Party organizations were told to appeal to the peasants' patriotic feelings and to tighten their control over the village councils. (3 August) The same day SZABAD FOELD demanded increased vigilance in the countryside. Kulaks, in addition to sabotaging their own deliveries, were trying to create "an atmosphere hostile to the grain delivery scheme," trying to convince people that the 1951 harvest was worse than it really was. In some villages, they had misled threshing supervisors, and some local councils, tricked by the enemy, had sent in false returns, reporting average yields as lower than they really were. By this method, the enemy had striven to prevent large surplus deliveries against "C" coupons, depriving peasants of the 20 forint premium on "C" tickets, free milling facilities and special allocations of industrial products.

SZABAD FOELD went on to state that in some villages there were more and more cases of illegal threshing, which could not occur without the collusion of the threshing supervisors. In Baktonya and other villages, the enemy had spread the rumor that wheat prices would be doubled before December and that therefore it was senseless to rush deliveries. Such rumors had proved unfounded last year and they were equally untrue this year, the paper stressed.

On 4 August an object lesson was provided through the sentencing to 12 years' imprisonment of a woman "kulak"--she actually appeared to be a shopkeeper--for hoarding and refusing to sell to villagers of Matraszele in Nograd County quantities of footwear, textiles, soap, tobacco, coffee and so forth. She had withheld her stock and let it deteriorate "to incite the poor working people against the regime."

On 10 August it was announced that the county of Somogy was so far behind in grain deliveries that it had been punished by a ban on open market operations in farm produce. Although a 12 August announcement claimed that the number of working peasants who had surrendered double their compulsory quota had risen to 19,406 in the previous week, it was admitted that the counties of Komarom, Csongrad, Tolna, Zala and Nograd were lagging behind sadly; here hardly five percent of the peasantry had met obligations so far.

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A 16 August broadcast reviewed the progress of the collection campaign but gave no overall figures. It was reported that in one village the compulsory quota of 15 peasants had been raised five percent as a reprisal for late deliveries. More precise information was given on 18 August, when a home service broadcast said that the county of Bacs-Kiskun was continuing to lead the collection drive, having completed 85.7 percent of its quota. The campaign was going so well in the counties of Komarom, Veszprem, Győr, Sopron and Vas that extra quotas imposed by way of fines were being reduced. It was announced that 47,000 individual peasants had surrendered double their compulsory quotas, and that the Ministry of Food had extended by two weeks the period on which early delivery premiums would be paid on certain types of cereals.

Despite the warning of SZABAD NEP that the grain collection drive must take priority over the rural collectivization campaign, the latter was pushed aggressively. The campaign got off to a flying start on 3 August with the return to Budapest of a 200-man peasant delegation which has been visiting Soviet collective farms. In telegrams to Rakosi, they all expressed the conviction that only large-scale collective farming on the Soviet model could raise the living standards of the Hungarian peasantry, and they said that those of the delegation who had not already joined collectives had pledged to do so. Extensive publicity was given to their views and to descriptions of their experiences, and on 7 August a Budapest broadcast quoted them as claiming that the living conditions of the Soviet kolkhoz peasantry are even better than those provided by the Hungarian regime.

A SZABAD NEP article quoted on 9 August advocated regular Sunday visits by individual peasants to local cooperatives, warning the peoples' councils that they must make sure that kulaks did not succeed in joining these trips and "worm their way" into collective farms. The article cautioned the collectives to put their houses in order to illustrate the advantages of cooperative farming to best advantage.

In following days, still further publicity was given to the views of the returning peasants, and on 13 August Lajos Borbas, Secretary General of the National Union of Working Peasants and Farm Laborers (DEFOSZ), writing in SZABAD FOELD, emphasized that while the economy of small individual farmers must be assisted and developed, the main road to the modernization of agriculture led through the merger of small parcels of land into big farms cultivated on a large scale. It was the duty of DEFOSZ, he said, to publicize the happy life and splendid prospects of the Soviet kolkhoznik with the help of the recently returned peasants. A Budapest broadcast on the same day said that the rural enlightenment campaign was meeting with great success and that in the Czegled district peasants were joining cooperatives "by the hundreds."

SZABAD NEP said on 14 August that on the preceding Sunday hundreds of peasants had joined cooperatives. It called for a more intensive propaganda drive so that Constitution Day (20 August) might prove an important date in the growth of the rural cooperative movement.

The advantages of collective farming were glowingly illustrated in the 18 August issue of SZABAD NEP which published a letter from the head of a producers' group. He said that each family on the farm had received 26,000 forints. One member, credited with 550 work units, had received 8,250 forints cash, 27.5 quintals of wheat, 27 quintals of maize, 3.5 quintals of barley, 5 quintals of potatoes, 55 kilograms of sugar, 16.5 quintals of turnips and 27.5 quintals of green vegetables as well as various vouchers for industrial products.

Another 18 August broadcast predicted that the following Sunday and Monday would see an unprecedented intensification of the cooperative recruiting drive. Tens of thousands of "peoples' educators" would visit every house in the countryside and would not spare "patient, convincing and wise words." The broadcast claimed that 2,199 peasants had joined cooperatives in one week in Csongrad. Among those won over by this shock campaign, evidently, was Premier Dobi, who announced on 19 August that he had decided to merge his holding of two acres and other land received at the land distribution into a collective. No specific figures were provided on 20 August on the success of the campaign, but it was reported that in many villages new cooperatives were set up in honor of Constitution Day; these events were reported in great detail.

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Mining: Several broadcasts provide evidence that the output of the coal mining industry is regularly falling behind expectations. A SZABAD NEP editorial on 8 August complained that production in the first days of every month was falling so far behind quota as to make it impossible to fulfill the monthly plans. The unequal rate of production, the paper said, was due to labor fluctuations and slack discipline. So many workers were absent that managers were forced to reconstitute entire brigades and groups. This naturally hampered production. An official of the Gyogyoer mining combine, interviewed 16 August, suggested that the reasons his enterprise had fallen behind in each month of the year were slack discipline, absenteeism after paydays, insufficient personal interest in production contests and shortages of skilled workers and of manpower in general.

Earlier, the miners of Tatabanya appealed for more workers, saying that the industry needs 5,000 recruits and a quicker delivery of mechanized mining equipment. To encourage production, the workers said, a special miners' day is to be celebrated in September. (12 August) The following day the cabinet endorsed the Tatabanya appeal and instructed the Ministry of Mines and Power to arrange accommodation, transportation and supplies for the new recruits. Later in the day, a radio reporter claimed that the average daily wage of miners is 47 forints, considerably more than that of the peasants, to whom the recruiting appeal is chiefly aimed.

This action was followed up in a SZABAD NEP editorial on 14 August stressing the vital importance of coal production and reminding Party organizations of the serious duties which are facing them in connection with the mine recruiting drive. It said that although output had greatly increased, there was room for improvement in many pits. In a few weeks, the paper warned, the Communists would have to give an account of how they had accomplished this task. On the same day, NEPSZAVA published the cabinet decision and relevant appeals by the trade union central committee and the Mineworkers' Union.

Railways: Railway Day was celebrated on 12 August with the usual exhortations to improve accomplishment and to emulate the deeds of the Soviet railmen. Minister Bebrits, helping to swear in 210 new rail officials, including 44 women, promised more modern equipment to make the Hungarian railroads worthy of their Soviet model. He announced wage and premium increases but no details were given. In an editorial on the preceding day, SZABAD NEP praised the rail workers for pledging to make peak period traffic a success this year although a good harvest means 30 percent more load. The paper called on the men to strengthen discipline and to develop the "500 kilometer" and "2,000 tons" movements.

An anticlimax to all this was the announcement on 14 August that a storekeeper at the Budapest railway station who had incited his fellow workers against the labor emulation campaign, the bonus system and labor discipline had been "exposed," thanks to the vigilance of the workers.

Education and Culture: Erzsébet Andics, president of the Hungarian Historical Society, told the society that a memorial book on Kossuth will be published on the 150th anniversary of Kossuth's birth. It would be the task of Hungarian historians, he said, to present "the true Kossuth." (1 August) The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is preparing a map of Hungarian dialects to be completed by the end of the Five-Year Plan. (1 August) MTI claimed that illiteracy has been liquidated except for gypsies. The Council of the First District of Budapest has organized a course for 26 young gypsies who will teach their own people later. (17 August)

SZABAD IFJUSAG, converted from a weekly to a daily youth journal, pledged to the Workers Party its full support in the indoctrination of youth. (1 August)

Church-State Affairs: Although it was announced on 1 August that the Supreme Court had rejected the appeals of Archbishop Grosz and his associates, there was evidence in other directions of an attempt to improve the lot of the "loyal clergy." At a meeting of more than 100 priests and 29 Benedictine monks of Gyogyoer-Sopron county, Richard Horvath, Secretary of the National Peace Committee of Catholic Priests, announced that

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the Government would help rebuild Gyöer Cathedral by providing materials free of charge. Father Beresztoczy said that the trade union health insurance center would provide medical attention for Catholic priests. In reply, the meeting pledged to help the grain delivery and rural collectivization drives. (14 August)

Earlier, Endre Hamvas, Bishop of Csanad, writing in MAGYAR NEMZET, welcomed the Episcopate's Oath of Allegiance, sworn to a fortnight previously. He praised the regime's social welfare plans which he said were "entirely in accordance with the teaching of the gospel and which deserve the Catholic clergy's support." (6 August)

The Bishop of Pecs, Virag, asked the clergy of his diocese on 7 August to do their best for the grain delivery drive. He appealed especially to the priests of the Sasd District whose poor showing was hampering Baranya County in the drive. He added that the clergy should encourage the peasants to deliver their surplus to the state.

There was no indication in radio broadcasts that 20 August, now celebrated as Constitution Day, was once the great religious holiday, St. Stephen's Day. Nor was there any reference to a claim by the Vatican radio that "Hungarian Communist authorities have decided to publish a new translation of the Bible, the first part to be issued shortly." (in English, 15 August)

Civil Defense: A 13 August broadcast announced that on Constitution Day the Freedom Fighters Association would hold a flying, motoring and parachute display at Matyasfold.

Sovietization and Relations with Neighbors: A considerable step toward Sovietization was made through the currently stressed rural collectivization drive, frankly aimed at universal establishment of cooperatives on the Soviet model. A Hungarian railroad workers' delegation is now touring the Soviet Union to pick up hints on how to bring the Hungarian rail system closer into line with that of the USSR. (3 August) In industry and mining there was similar emphasis on the need to emulate the Soviet Union.

A Hungarian cultural delegation of 35 persons, headed by the writer Gyula Hay and including musical and dance groups, departed 9 August for Albania. The same day the Bulgarian members of the mixed Hungarian-Bulgarian commission arrived in Budapest to sign a cultural agreement.

Consumer Goods: MTI reported on 2 August that the Economic Council had cut laundry prices by 20 percent. On 8 August the Budapest Municipal Council announced that poultry may in the future be bought against meat coupons. One 100 gram coupon will be worth 200 grams of poultry, at a price of 16.60 to 19 forints--or slightly less than half a miner's daily wage--depending on quality. The Cabinet issued a decree to regulate the building of private family houses on 14 August. The Municipality of Budapest is authorized to allot building sites free of charge to workers who, with or without building loans, wish to build a family home. The house will become the property of the person building it; after repayment of the loan the owner is free to dispose of the house as he sees fit. On the whole, however, there was little stress on consumer problems.

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RUMANIA.

Aside from the revelations made at the latest "spy" trial, indications of a tightening of ideological discipline and hints of a pending fuel shortage, the output of the Rumanian radio was relatively uninformative. The charges against the alleged spies were characteristically unprecise but it was admitted that former Army officers were implicated. A marked attempt was made to improve the ideological purity of Rumanian literature. There was little hard news on Rumanian achievements or shortcomings in the fields of industry and agriculture, although there was some evidence of the continuing drive towards collectivization. Early in August, the official Party newspaper SCANTEIA warned of the danger of an approaching fuel shortage and it outlined steps to be taken to alleviate the situation. Miners' Day was celebrated with the customary bows in the direction of the Soviet Union. The conditions of teachers were improved, but the educators were told that they must pay for this by greatly increasing their political activities.

Party Affairs, Ideology and Internal Propaganda: Considerable internal propaganda use was made of the trial of "groups of spies and traitors in the service of the imperialists." Workers were told to sharpen their vigilance and to foil any outside attempts upon their freedom. ROMANIA LIBERA stated that the trial proved that where every citizen was on guard it was "inconceivable that the enemies' machinations could prove successful," and SCANTEIA cited the "hysterical howls of the London radio to prove that "the Anglo-American imperialists had fully felt the blow" of the exposure of their plotting.

BBC attempts to defend Maria Banus from criticisms by SCANTEIA caused the poetess to reply in the official Party paper that the criticisms had been fully justified. A later SCANTEIA editorial, hailing the anniversary of the translation of Zhdanov's directive on the arts, complained that the work of many Rumanian writers still showed grave deficiencies and that the work of Banus in particular suffers from "a deviation towards a line of apolitical individualism." The Belgrade paper BORBA, observing these developments, stated that Rumanian literature is becoming completely Russianized and that the only criterion of merit is its propaganda character. (Belgrade in Rumanian, 14 August)

Marking its own 20th anniversary, SCANTEIA exhorted itself and the rest of the Party press to "intervene far more actively in the development of ideological work" in science, literature and art and to improve the "Party life" column. The Party press, the paper said, still had not solved the task of the "theoretical treatment of topical economic, political and cultural problems."

AGERPRESS publicized the Congress of Workers and Peasants Correspondents which was held during the weekend of 17-19 August. It quoted the representative of the Moscow PRAVDA as recommending that attention be given to "irregularities, unmasking those guilty of ill-management, the bureaucrats and bankers, those who are plundering public socialist property."

Agriculture: The few items broadcast were chiefly concerned with collectivization. A deputation of Soviet collective farmers arrived in Bucharest and was greeted by the Minister of Agriculture who expressed Rumania's gratitude for the USSR's helpful guidance in agricultural matters. A delegation of Rumanian collective farm workers departed for the USSR. The official agency, speaking of the achievements of the State Farms, cited the large areas now under industrial crops. Four times more cotton is now being grown than at any time in the past, the agency reported.

Fuel and Mining: A SCANTEIA editorial said that there was a great need for the rational utilization of winter fuel in view of the country's great industrial expansion. One of the most important problems, the paper said, was the transportation of fuel, and some districts were behind plan in this respect. Greater use must be made of inferior fuels such as peat and here again many districts are said to be failing to make the most of local resources. Miners' Day was celebrated in the middle of the month. The press and radio publicized tributes to Sovrom Carbone and "telegrams of homage" from miners to Stalin. In future the occasion will be marked by annual awards of medals, etc. to miners, technicians and members of management staff for length and quality of service. Later it was announced that the Government had approved the issue of uniforms to miners—on payment—and of distinctive badges.

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Education: SCANTEIA urged teachers to improve their ideological, political and professional qualifications. Soviet experience, the paper said, must be absorbed and practised. Familiarity with Stalin's writings on linguistics was essential. The Ministry of Education was rebuked for failing properly to supervise preparations for the new school term in some areas.

Later it was announced that a decree had been issued improving teachers' pay and conditions of work. Special treatment as to accommodation and consumer goods, paid leave and better training facilities are provided, while "increased political activity among masters and professors would be expected" in return. Commenting on this action, ROMANIA LIBERA said that teachers' efforts "must be increased ten-fold" in order to further the work of "strengthening the fatherland and the construction of socialism."

Church-State Affairs: Delegates of the Baptist Church expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Government for the freedom of religion which they and other churches allegedly enjoy.

BULGARIA.

As was the case with the Rumanian radio, Bulgarian transmitters were concerned with ideological questions, particularly in relation to literary matters. The primacy of Chervenkov in the Party hierarchy was reaffirmed. Little concrete information was provided on the situation in industry and agriculture, but the kulaks were charged with sabotaging the cereals delivery drive, and the Ministry of Agriculture was censured for faulty reporting of the situation in the machine-tractor stations. Warnings were issued to the railroads to improve preparations for the coming winter, and electric power shortages were admitted in Sofia.

Party Affairs, Ideology and Internal Propaganda: In connection with the widely publicized 60th anniversary of the Buzludzha Congress of the Bulgarian socialist movement it was evident that Chervenkov maintains his leading role in the Bulgarian Communist Party, despite published reports to the contrary. Speaking on the occasion of the Buzludzha celebration, for example, Mme. Blagoeva said that Chervenkov was "the worthiest upholder of Dimitrov's cause, the faithful pupil of Stalin." In a RABOTNICHESKO DELO editorial, Chervenkov replied that he and the Party were "always with Stalin."

Sofia revealed that a scrutiny of two city councils and 20 village councils carried out by the State Control Commission had disclosed widespread under-estimation of the complaints and petitions of the working people toward whom a bureaucratic and indifferent attitude has too often been manifested. The chairmen of several local councils had been severely reprimanded, the radio said.

A RABOTNICHESKO DELO editorial, recalling Chervenkov's speech, "For or Against the Party in Figurative Art," said that weaknesses such as formalism and schematism still continue. "The wise words of Comrade Chervenkov must be turned into deeds," the paper cautioned. Another editorial criticized the insufficient participation of women in public life. Quoting comments by the Central Committee of the Communist Party in April on the "very unsatisfactory" recruitment of women Party members, the editorial called for an intensification of "Party work among the women," especially in rural areas and among the Turkish minority.

The Bulgarian Telegraph Agency announced that IZGREV has become an evening paper under the name of VECHEJNI NOVINI (EVENING NEWS). In its inaugural editorial, the paper said that it would "preach love for the people, the Party and the People's Government; love for the great cause of the socialist construction of society; love for our elder brother, sincere friend and selfless guide---the USSR; and love for the People's Democracies and all democratic and peace-loving people all over the world." In addition it would "unmask the crazy designs of the imperialists and their Balkan tools---the Titoites, the Greek monarcho-fascists and the Turkish reactionaries."

Belgrade radio contended that a further "purge of patriots" is being conducted in Bulgaria on orders of the Soviet Union. The victims, said the Yugoslav radio, are former partisans who fought against the Nazis at a time when the present leaders of the Party were undergoing indoctrination in Moscow.

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Industry: Belgrade alleged that there were failures to achieve quotas in the fields of industry, electrification, mining and agriculture and it said that the revelation of large-scale irregularities presaged a new purge.

Agriculture: No over-all totals on the progress of the harvest were provided. Early in the month, Sofia said that "enemies and kulaks," angered by the successful gathering of the harvest, were trying to disorganize the cooperatives and the machine-tractor stations and were sabotaging the delivery of cereals to the states.

RABOTNICHESKO DELO said that the Ministry of Agriculture, despite earlier warnings, was "continuing with the wrong system for collecting and reporting information" about the machine-tractor stations. Its figures were too generalized to show the successes and failures as between individual stations. The Ministry, therefore, was unable to "guide and instruct them" as it should.

Belgrade reported the organization of Party supervision of the agricultural cooperatives to overcome peasant opposition. The new system, which would be independent of local Party organs, reflects the increasing centralization of administration, according to the Yugoslav broadcast. Belgrade also asked how Bulgarian reports of an increase in the arable acreage could be reconciled with the shortage of cereals. The answer, the Yugoslav radio contended, is that grain is being sold to buy arms for the USSR and to pay for Chervenkov's "apparatus of social parasites."

Mining: A Belgrade broadcast, contending that Bulgaria is being subjected to relentless exploitation by the Soviet Union, cited the case of the uranium mine at Buhovo, near Sofia; it is so closely guarded by the Russians that the Bulgarian people are not allowed to know anything about its output.

Transportation: Railway Day was celebrated in conventional fashion during the weekend of 3-6 August. A RABOTNICHESKO DELO editorial said that in spite of all achievements there were still too many derailments and collisions, indicating a slackening of discipline. On 20 August, the paper asserted that "some rail junction collectives" were being criticized for not having treated seriously enough the task of preparing "locomotives, switches, cranes, installations, stations, factories and depots" for the winter.

A broadcast on 15 August told of reductions in Sofia streetcar services because of "insufficient production of electric power." The preceding day BTA reported the opening of a new power station, Maritsa 3, largest in the country and designed to provide power for the Stalin Nitrate Plant.

Unions and Labor: A RABOTNICHESKO DELO editorial urged greater reliance on the trade union movement as "a school for Communism." The paper said that "there are still too many Party organizations which do not know how to lean on the trade unions in the execution of the plan and in improving the productivity of the workers." Later, TRUD urged greater use of the trade unions for the "extension and improvement of the protection of labor." This task was neglected by some enterprises--a state of affairs which "must not be tolerated."

Sofia reminded workers wanting to attend rest homes of the rules governing admission. Only those "actively engaged in production" are eligible. Mothers must place their children in the care of "specialized child educators (female)." Workers must bring their social insurance cards or some other proof of their employment as well as bread, fats and meat coupons.

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ALBANIA

There was news of only two outstanding developments from the Albanian radio--the opening of a trial of 17 kulaks charged with espionage and diversionary activities and the official break between the Albanian Catholic Church and Rome.

A Tirana broadcast on 19 August announced the opening of the trial of 17 kulaks, described as former members of "the treacherous 'Balli Kombetar' organization" and "old spies of the Anglo-American imperialists." The defendants were accused of "espionage and diversionary activities" and of having spread false rumors among the populace in order to undermine "the people's regime and Government."

Commenting of the official decree establishing an Albanian National Catholic Church, BASHKIMI was quoted as saying that the Catholic clergy, "freed from the Vatican's intrigues, brutal exploitation and centuries-old yoke," could for the first time fulfil its religious obligations by loyally serving the people and the country's interest.

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